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June 29, 1972

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL HAIG

THROUGH: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN

SUBJECT: Possible Enemy Military Moves to Prepare
for a Cease-Fire

[redacted] COSVN has begun preparing 25X1
cadre in South Vietnam for the possibility of an early cease-fire. The most
[redacted] a cease-fire and a political settlement 25X1
is to be reached before the Presidential election; however, this latter report,
also indicates that prior to a cease-fire the bulk of the countryside, particularly
in the Delta, must be under Communist control.

If the Communist side is seriously considering an early cease-fire -- and
this is open to question -- they will probably make every effort to isolate
Saigon, especially from the Delta. They might well plan to rebuild the 5th,
7th, 9th, and 1st (Phuoc Long Front) Divisions and use them in trying to take
most of Long An and Hau Nghia Provinces and to block all major GVN routes
leading north, west and south out of Saigon (they have already done quite well
in blocking Route 13). In this regard, it is significant that the headquarters of
the 5th Division has been located in southern Kien Tuong Province. From
here the 5th could try to move to Long An Province or to block Route 4 or both.
The forces presently in Phuoc Thuy Province could plan to move north and
west in an attempt to interdict Routes 1 and 20, cut off Vung Tau, and set up
positions in the Rung Sat to harass river traffic to Saigon.

While the enemy still seems determined to take Hue and Kontum, he might
believe that for cease-fire purposes it would be sufficient to isolate these
cities -- as well as other cities such as Danang, Pleiku and Qui Nhon -- and
to increase control of the surrounding countryside.

ARMY and JCS reviews
completed.SECRET/SENSITIVE

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2

All of these moves might be anticipated by MACV and the JCS; however, I have not seen any indication that this is true. In any case, both MACV and the JCS would probably insist that the enemy will not, in the coming months, have the capability to carry out such plans, and they might be right.

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